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84TH CONGRESS } HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES { REPORT
1st Session } { No. 1033

INCREASED PAY COSTS, 1955
TEMPORARY APPROPRIATIONS, 1956

JUNE 30, 1955.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State
of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. CANNON, from the Committee on Appropriations, submitted the
following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H. J. Res. 366]

The Committee on Appropriations to which was referred the House Joint Resolution No. 366, making temporary appropriations for the fiscal year 1956, providing for increased pay costs for the fiscal year 1955, and for other purposes, reports the same to the House without amendment and with the recommendation that the joint resolution be passed.

TITLE I

Title I of the joint resolution is the usual stereotyped continuing resolution to make provision for continuing in operation those functions of the Government for which annual appropriation bills have not been enacted by the beginning of the fiscal year, July 1.

All of the bills are at advanced stages of legislative procedure and should be finally enacted early in July. In order to maintain necessary service some interim provision must be made pending such final action. The joint resolution provides such interim authority during the month of July.

TITLE II

In recent weeks Congress has enacted Public Laws 68 and 94, retroactively effective to March, increasing the compensation of employees in the various branches of the Government. No appropriation or fund, out of which salaries of Government employees are paid, for the fiscal year 1955 included sums for the payment of this retroactive increased compensation and it will not be possible for these payments to be made until funds are made available.

TEMPORARY APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 1956

Some agencies will have at least a part of the funds available in unobligated balances but it will require a long and detailed study and take weeks of time--probably until after the Congress will have adjourned--to compute the exact amount which will be required to meet this retroactive cost in the fiscal year 1955 and determine what amounts are available out of funds previously appropriated. Whatever amount is finally determined in each case must be provided and nothing would be gained by waiting to make funds available until all the details are known.

Therefore, the Committee has included in this resolution, Title II which provides authority for transfers between accounts and also makes indefinite appropriation of such additional amounts as may be necessary to meet these costs. The language of the resolution is broad enough to permit payment of all amounts specifically due under these two laws for the fiscal year 1955 but is so written as to make it impossible for any of the funds provided to be used for any other purpose whatsoever.

This method of providing funds was proposed in a budget estimate, House Document 197. However, the language of the proposal has been somewhat changed in order to include adequate safeguards and to eliminate unnecessary verbiage.

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